

Jan. 21, 1964

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thanks for the note on the 1787/90 Conn. cent. The variety is not important in this case. It also shows how deceptive a poor rubbing can be.

I could have sworn it was 1790. I did not see the coin, only the rubbing.

Sincerely yours,


James G. Johnson

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 15, 1968

Mr. James Johnson
CoinWorld
Sidney, Ohio

Dear Jim:

We are sure that many people will be pleased to read your two very fine articles on fakes in the January 1968 COIN WORLD and we hope it will continue with full vigor. It is more necessary than you know.

Your thought that a crackdown from within numismatics should take place agrees with our thinking and should be emphasized and re-emphasized.

Incidentally, you state that all 1788 Connecticut coppers are fakes. Our research shows that the facts on which this theory is based are not accurate. The Connecticut Mint was operating long after the June 1787 date on which it was alleged to have been closed.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb

Jo:

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil A e.,
St. Louis, MO. 63105

Coin World
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD
SIDNEY NEWS BUILDING
SIDNEY, OHIO 45365

SUBJECT

New Jersey mystery

DATE

5/11/68

FOLD ↓

Dear Eric:

At the suggestion of Hillel Kaslove and Russell Rulau, I am sending you a mystery coin for which I would like a solution if so be you have one.

It seems to be some sort of pattern for a New Jersey coin or medal, struck over an 1831 U.S. cent, which does not make too much sense, unless somebody had an early die and was having fun with it. The eagle resembles a Brasher.

Can you help me out on this at your convenience? I enclose a return envelope. If the design has been published, I would appreciate knowing where.

Thank you in advance for your trouble. Return Registration will, of course, be refunded.

Regards,

Jim Johnson
James G. Johnson

P.S. We appreciated your verification of the Confederate Half Dime fantasy. I have never used your name as witness simply because I suspected you would prefer it that way, in the many times I state that only two authorized Confederate coins ~~are known to have existed~~ are known to have existed.

JAMES G. JOHNSON
Coin World
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Leo III et/ 1/2d

Dear Eric:

In haste: I found one of these things
among my accumulations, and thought you might
want to see it. It can be removed from the
encasing.

Regards,
Jim J

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 27, 1968

Mr. James G. Johnson
Coin World
Sidney News Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Jim:

I have never been so frustrated as I have been by the coin you sent me and which is returned herewith.

Since it has been heavily flattened, a great deal of pressure has been exerted.

It seems to me that the piece has had the same die applied to both sides, first to the reverse, and then to the obverse of the cent. That conclusion is reached because the lines on the shield seem to show on both sides.

I am very interested in finding out what the legend is above the eagle. The letters "EE DO" do not seem to be part of the same word but could have been "FREEDOM" before they were spread out by the crushing. What the first couple of letters are requires better eyes than I have.

Could this have been a court seal, or other official seal of New Jersey, or a department of it, which was used on a cent of the period? I think it is necessary to check whether New Jersey did use the eagle and shield in an official capacity in the early nineteenth century and that should not be difficult. The New Jersey Historical Society might help you, or perhaps the Secretary of State's office might know.

Thank you, very much, for letting me see this stranger.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

January 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO Mr. James Johnson
Coin World

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Jim:

You sent me a 1775 counterfeit English halfpence.

It is marked "For Eric Newman". I did not know whether you
wanted it back or not and therefore feel it is proper to ask.

Would you let me know if you do want it back.

Happy New Year, Same to you.

EPN/atb

JAMES G. JOHNSON
Coin World
Sidney, Ohio 45365

I'd like it back some day. I sent it on the chance it might be an example of what you were looking for, as I have no way of knowing those things. I had just taken for granted it was an English counterfeit just as I did the other, which you said was not. (I'll be printing that shortly, with your exclamation).

You have never answered my letter about the lead 1879 silver dollar from cancelled die. I have been holding the piece. I need to know if it is contemporary or modern made.

Jim F.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 21, 1969

Mr. James Johnson
COIN WORLD
P.O.Box 150
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Jim:

I am returning herewith the 1775 counterfeit English halfpence which you were kind enough to send me for examination. It is an English one and must have had a fascinating history.

As to the 1879 lead piece, there is no way I can tell if it is modern or early unless I can see it. If you want me to examine it, then I, at least, have a chance of determining its origin. If the dies were sold for junk and cancelled with a chisel stroke then this could have been made from one.

If I can be of help, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 18, 1972

Mr. James O. Johnson
Sidney News Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Jim:

We have been studying the five pieces bought in a group of eleven by Milton G. Cohen from Ray Freville of Reo Coins, in New York City, about 1968. Mr. Cohen indicated that two which we have not seen were white metal commemorative uniface 50¢ pieces (unidentified).

In the American Journal of Numismatics for 1913 there is a mention on page 145 of plaster models made by Fraser for the 5¢ coin and an illustration on Plate 7 of the two faces. The illustrated obverse is dated 1912. These same illustrations were published on page 606 of the December, 1914 Numismatist. This year there were also pictures of the models for the final form of the 1913, 5 cent coin, in the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine.

The five pieces sent to us for study consist of a uniface 1911 Indian Head (Cent size), a uniface 1911 Lincoln 5¢ obverse, a uniface 1912 Indian Head 5¢ obverse, a uniface Buffalo 5¢ reverse and a 1909 silver U. S. Cent.

Comparing the Indian and Buffalo uniface 5¢ pieces with those illustrations above-mentioned shows that the illustrations are a further refined design. The Buffalo reverse on the uniface piece has hyphens instead of stops between UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and has a very small E PLURIBUS UNUM. The Indian obverse has a small date compared to the one in the illustration. There are many minor sculptural differences but generally the design is the same.

It is clear that Fraser as sculptor prepared clay models in customary large size. It was routine to use a Janvier machine to reduce the large size model to a coin size model. This was done by making a plaster galvano which the Janvier machine would trace. The Janvier machine would cut in metal, whether soft steel or some much softer metal. From such a coin size piece an electrotype could readily be made up by the use of a plaster negative. The back of the electrotype could be filled with a lead mixture or other white metal mixture. The electrotype would have been customarily made of copper and the face could have been plated with nickel. The first four pieces seem to be of that nature, the plating and filling work having been poorly done as the copper shows through in many areas. Whether the electrotypes were made at the Mint or outside the Mint is not important, but the Mint had such facilities. It would not be unusual for an artist to want to see what the coin he was designing would look like.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

-2-

Mr. James O. Johnson

October 18, 1972

We have not located any information on the original large size models of the first four items sent us but have no reason at this time to feel that they are designs which would not normally have been prepared except perhaps in the case of the two 1911 items. There was no reason to prepare a one cent design in 1911 after the Brenner design had been adopted and produced since 1909. There was no reason for Lincoln to be used on a 5¢ coin in 1911 after Lincoln had already been placed on the 1¢ coin in 1909. Logic in these situations is not always helpful.

Our conclusion as to the four uniface pieces is that it is perfectly possible for these small electrotypes to have been made from reductions made from larger models. Probably the Mint retained the reductions and turned the electrotypes over to the artist for his studies. The Mint probably destroyed the reductions as well as the models after they had served their purpose and new models or designs were adopted. The electros were said by the seller to be from the Fraser family.

As to the 1909 U. S. Cent on a silvery planchet, we do not believe this is a Mint error. Its specific gravity of about 10.3 indicates it is silver but we have not tested it as to whether it is coin silver or pure silver. It was not struck in a collar as its edge is unnaturally smooth. The whole coin seems to have a silver plated appearance. The bottom of ONE shows substantial metal movement, indicating striking. The date is weak, as is the dentil work on the edge. The weight should be 38.4 grains, but is satisfactory at 37.75. Its finish does not have normal oxidation. It seems like an artificial piece made at the Mint. It may have been from electrotype dies.

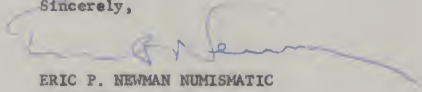
I am returning the five coins and retaining the pictures since the owner must have additional copies of the prints.

It was particularly interesting for me to examine these pieces because it gives further evidence of the inappropriateness of the 1913 Liberty Head Nickel. In other words if, in the year 1912, a new design was already in the making and the new design was approved in June of 1912, there was no reason for 1913 Liberty Head dies to have been dated or coins struck from them.

We hope we have been helpful.

EPN
atb

Sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 3, 1972

Mr. James G. Johnson
Sidney News Building
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Dear Jim:

On the Fraser material, I am glad to try to clarify what you think needs clarification.

The four uniface electrotype items, I believe, were made for Fraser and were probably made at the Mint because the Mint had the hubs from which they must have been made.

I know of no reason why the two 1911 pieces should have been in existence at all. Their hubs would have been purposeless to produce and the electros would also have served no purpose.

The 1909 Indian Head Cent on the silver planchet was made intentionally and I cannot speculate as to what method was used in making it or where it was made.

I hope this clears up my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY